

Jennifer Ybarra



0000127962

ORIGINAL

W-01303A-10-0448

From: bodnarboatworks@juno.com
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 3:23 PM
To: Newman-Web
Subject: Fw: Docket # W-01303A-10-0448 - Regarding AZ American Water Rate Increase Proposal

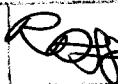
We were just informed by our Homeowner's Association that Arizona American Water is proposing a rate increase of 82.89%. This is absurd! Why hasn't Arizona American Water notified the public of this? We are a small business and when times get tough, we raise our rates between 1% and 5% only. How can a utility company feel that it's right to raise their rates by almost 100%? We do not agree with this proposal at all and will notify everyone we know in Surprise to get on the horn and complain about this issue.

Thank you for you time,
Mr. and Mrs. Dana Bodnar

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

AUG 1 2011

DOCKETED BY	
-------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

2011 AUG - 1 P 3:55

RECEIVED

Jennifer Ybarra

From: Myrna [myrnaholdredge@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 2:07 PM
To: Newman-Web
Subject: Regarding Docket No. W-01303A-10-0448

Dear Mr. Newman,

I am a 71 year old woman who lives solely on a total of \$1300 per month Social Security income, and as a homeowner in Arizona Traditions, Surprise, AZ, I am horrified at the prospect of the potential and ABSOLUTELY APPALLING 80% (EIGHTY PER CENT!) rate of increase in water rates for the Agua Fria district. That increase, coupled with the associated potential increase in HOA fees, will be absolutely financially devastating to me!

Furthermore, I did not receive notification from Arizona American Water of their proposal regarding this matter, nor was I supplied with any maps indicating that my property was even in the Agua Fria District; therefore, any references to a rate increase in that district would not have alerted me that I could have personally been affected. Also, I was not notified of any public meetings that would have provided information to affected residents on this matter, thus I would have been completely blind-sided by future water bills reflecting those increases, had it not been for the notice of impending changes that our HOA posted.

I implore you, as a commissioner of the Arizona Corporation Commission, to please consider intervening and acting on behalf of citizens like myself to make sure this preposterous increase does not happen!

Thank you for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

Myrna Holdredge

[REDACTED]
Surprise, AZ 85374

[REDACTED]
E-mail myrnaholdredge@cox.net

Jennifer Ybarra

From: David Clayton [dcl8on@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 12:03 PM
To: Newman-Web; Burns-Web; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web
Subject: AZ American Water Proposed 80% Rate Increase

I am totally opposed to this rate increase. Raising water rates this much creates a burden on all water users. In my situation, I am on a fixed income (civil service and military retirement and social security). I have not received a COLA increase in 2 years. So my retirement stays the same and rates for water increase 80%? This totally wrong. Please disapprove any rate increase by this overcharging water utility.

Thanks

David D. Clayton

Jennifer Ybarra

From: william Barbee [wbarbee2@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 10:35 AM
To: Newman-Web
Subject: AZ Water Co proposed rate hike

You folks are much more aware of the pros and cons of this AZ Water ploy to force us to pay for their mistakes. Our local economy is sorry enough without adding an 80 % rate increase to residents in the Aqua Fria district. I urge you to disallow the hike.

Sincerely

Bill

William H. Barbee,
Freelance Outdoor Writer & Photographer
Member OWAA

[REDACTED]
Surprise, AZ 85387
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

wbarbee2@gmail.com

Jennifer Ybarra

From: william rodgers [bjr10375@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 6:50 AM
To: Newman-Web
Subject: Water rate hike

The proposed water rate hike for Surprise, Az is outrageous. There must be a more reasonable alternative at this time.
William C. Rodgers

[REDACTED]
Surprise, Az 85374

Jennifer Ybarra

From: mike orose [morose@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2011 9:22 PM
To: Newman-Web
Subject: Arizona American Water Rate Increase

I just want to express that I think the 83% rate increase request from the Arizona American Water Company is TOTALLY OUT OF LINE. In this economy that kind of request is nothing short of absurd.

Jennifer Ybarra

From: dpalmer28@cox.net
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 3:45 PM
To: Newman-Web
Subject: Rate increase request by Az American Water

Dear Sir,

I request that you refuse any increase in water rates, water costs in Surprise and Sun City are high now, an increase would be very difficult to bear for the average consumer my bill alone averages 40.00 per month and I watch very closely to make sure that our precious resource is not wasted. An 80 percent increase is outrageous please refuse any increase request.

Thank you,
David C. Palmer

Jennifer Ybarra

From: Sue Kraft [susankraft@cox.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 9:50 AM
To: Newman-Web
Subject: AZ American Water

Dear Paul,

Please do not approve an 82.69% rate increase for the above water company. Why is such a large increase necessary?

Thank you.

Sue Kraft

Jennifer Ybarra

From: shadow2221@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 11:42 AM
To: Newman-Web
Cc: Burns-Web; Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web
Subject: water price increase

Dear Arizona Corporation Commission,

I am writing to complain about the 82% hike in water rates that the water company is proposing in Surprise. Have you ever heard the saying about "kicking someone when they are down?" Who asks for a hike of this magnitude!? Who in today's economy can afford ANY hike, much less THIS KIND OF HIKE! It means an increase to both the water bill of each individual and also a hike in their HOA fees as well.

Arizonans have suffered with drops in their home values in recent years beyond comprehension. I purchase my house just a year and a half ago and it has already dropped in value \$40,000. And that is AFTER the big decline of the previous 5 years. Does the water company want to force even more homeowners to walk away from their homes in the next 5 years? With these kind of increases, that is exactly what will happen. I am on Social Security Disability and have a fixed income where I barely pay the \$60 per month to the water company now after I get done paying \$175 per month to the electric company. And that is keeping the thermostat on 85 degrees during the day and 87 at night because I cannot afford any higher electric bill!

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE think about what will happen to the residents in Surprise that cannot afford these increases! I am not a well-off Sun City Grand resident, I am a 54 year old, disabled person on oxygen. I do not qualify for any assistance. I make too much on Social Security Disability. Are you kidding me, an 82% raise in water prices when Social Security (and most private sector workers) have not had a raise in 3-4 years!

DO NOT APPROVE A PRICE HIKE IN WATER RATES, PLEASE!!!!!!

Christie Howard

Surprise, AZ 85388

Jennifer Ybarra

From: triciak@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 11:49 AM
To: Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; Kennedy-Web; Stump-Web; Newman-Web
Subject: Rate increase

July 26, 2011

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: DOCKET NO. W-01303A-10-0448

Proposed - ARIZONA AMERICAN WATER RATE INCREASE

Mr. Pierce Mr. Newman, Ms. Burns, Mr. Stump and Ms. Kennedy,

As a resident of Surprise, and resident and board member of Western Meadows HOA and subdivision, I would like to address the proposed rate increase for AZ-AM for the following Agua Fria, Mohave and Havasu water districts. I was made aware of this by email from the city of Surprise because I am an HOA board member. . I contacted Sun City Grand's attorney thanking them for their involvement and asking how I could help. They gave my information to Mr. Hewitt who I offered to help him if needed.

The increase is extremely outrageous over 80%. The current base rate that we are charged is severely expensive compared to other companies throughout the valley. In November 2010, the commission approved a rate increase for AZ-AM and now they are proposing another tremendous increase, less than a year later. The Commissions web site has hundreds of complaints from consumers. This should show with the economy people are tired of constant increases and we are all willing to stand up against them.

The increase will be applied to residential, the homeowner associations and commercial (businesses) throughout these areas. As a board member for my association, I took it upon myself (personally) to put packets together regarding the increase. I gathered information using resources and links from various web sites. I wrote a 2-page flyer which included links and information and included copies of recorded documents from www.azcc.gov, along with commissioners phone numbers, email addresses, Surprise City Council members web site, phone numbers, email addresses and the media information so they can contact. I made 241 packets for my subdivision with my own resources. I copied and my husband helped me distribute to homeowners in our subdivision

At our (Western Meadows), board meeting on Thursday July 7, 2011 only the Property Manager for AAM was aware of this proposed increase the other members were not. I presented them with copies of emails and documents I'd copied explaining the impact it would be for each homeowners water bill and then what it would do to our budget for the association and the impact of the increase for the HOA. Thus, it would mean a large increase in our HOA dues per quarter.

The original newspaper article referred to Anthem, and Sun City areas, now we find out that the Agua Fria District encompasses Surprise. I understand that the plant in question is not operating at capacity. Building the plant was with an "expected" population increase in the

west area due to the increased real estate market. The housing "bubble" burst long before the plant was built. Arizona American Water Company continued to build it. They planned on future profits from charging builders set up fees per lot. This would in turn, be passed on to each home buyer. This did not happen with the real estate market collapse in the valley.

The proposed increase for residential water bills will be over \$24.00 per month, for the associations the increases for their water bill will be astronomical. Our subdivision Western Meadows with small common areas for the 241 residents that 83.46% will mean changing a current budget of \$24,095 for 2011 to over \$44,000.00 for 2012. This means raising quarterly dues possibly from \$164.00 a quarter to well over \$190.00 or more per quarter in 2012. With 20% of vacant, in foreclosure, bank owned, small claims for non-payment the remainder of the homeowners are expected to carry the costs. Include rate increases given to APS, Southwest Gas, Cox Communications and other's in this economy has cause homeowners financial hardship. This and the job market is the reason for homeowners who walk away from their homes.

--

Tricia

Jennifer Ybarra

From: Gerald Camandona [gcamandona@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 1:09 PM
To: Newman-Web; Burns-Web; "pierce-web."@azcc.gov
Subject: Water rate increase

Greetings, We have just been informed by our HMO(Arizona Traditions) of a huge rate increase on our water bills. With the rate of inflation very low this makes no sense to us. We are on a fixed income(s.s) and need notice to adjust our budget for such a large increase at this time. We have not had a cost of living increase in two years. The economy is very bad now and getting much worse and this will only make inflation a reality for many retired people who built the S.S. system. We are a customer of Arizona American Water and don't know if this is Aqua Fria Water District. Please re-think this application for a 80% rate increase.

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Camandona

A black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature of the sender.

Surprise, AZ 85374

Jennifer Ybarra

From: vheflin@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 1:16 PM
To: Newman-Web
Cc: Burns-Web; Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web
Subject: Re: Docket No. W-01303A-10--448

RE: Docket No. W-01303A-10--448

> Dear Arizona Corporation Commission,

> I am writing to voice a complaint about the 82% hike in water rates
> that the water company is proposing in Surprise. Have you ever heard
> the saying about "kicking someone when they are down?" Who asks for a
> hike of this magnitude!? Who in today's economy can afford ANY hike,
> much less THIS KIND OF HIKE! It means an increase to both the water
> bill of each individual and also a hike in their HOA fees as well.

>
> Arizonans have suffered with drops in their home values in recent
> years beyond comprehension. I purchase my house just a year and a half
> ago and it has already dropped in value \$40,000. And that is AFTER the
> big decline of the previous 5 years.

>
> Does the water company want to force even more homeowners to walk away
> from their homes in the future? With these kind of increases, that is
> exactly what will happen. I am a retiree on Social Security and have a
> fixed income. And so is my neighbor. I can barely pay the \$60 per
> month to the water company now after I get done paying \$175 per month
> to the electric company. And that is keeping the thermostat on 85
> degrees during the day and 87 at night because I cannot afford any higher electric bill!

>
> PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE think about what will happen to the residents
> in Surprise that cannot afford these increases! I am not a well-off
> Sun City Grand resident, I am a 76 year old, retiree on Social
> Security. I do not qualify for any assistance. I make too much on Social Security. Are you
kidding me?

> An 82% raise in water prices when I have not seen ANY raise in my Social Security in 3
years!?

> Plus it would mean an increase in the HOA fees too!

>
> DO NOT APPROVE A PRICE HIKE IN WATER RATES, PLEASE!!!!!!

> Vilma M Heflin

> [REDACTED]
> Surprise, AZ 85388

Jennifer Ybarra

From: shadow2221@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 1:19 PM
To: Newman-Web
Cc: Burns-Web; Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web
Subject: Re: Docket No. W-01303A-10--448

Re: Docket No. W-01303A-10--448

> Dear Arizona Corporation Commission,

I am writing to voice a complaint about the 82% hike in water rates that the water company is proposing in Surprise. Have you ever heard the saying about "kicking someone when they are down?" Who asks for a hike of this magnitude!? Who in today's economy can afford ANY hike, much less THIS KIND OF HIKE! It means an increase to both the water bill of each individual and also a hike in their HOA fees as well.

>

> Arizonans have suffered with drops in their home values in recent years beyond comprehension. I purchase my house just a year and a half ago and it has already dropped in value \$40,000. And that is AFTER the big decline of the previous 5 years. Does the water company want to force even more homeowners to walk away from their homes in the next 5 years? With these kind of increases, that is exactly what will happen. I am on Social Security Disability and have a fixed income where I barely pay the \$60 per month to the water company now after I get done paying \$175 per month to the electric company. And that is keeping the thermostat on 85 degrees during the day and 87 at night because I cannot afford any higher electric bill!

>

> PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE think about what will happen to the residents in Surprise that cannot afford these increases! I am not a well-off Sun City Grand resident, I am a 54 year old, disabled person on oxygen. I do not qualify for any assistance. I make too much on Social Security Disability. Are you kidding me, an 82% raise in water prices when Social Security (and most private sector workers) have not had a raise in 3-4 years!

>

> DO NOT APPROVE A PRICE HIKE IN WATER RATES, PLEASE!!!!!!

> Christie Howard

> [REDACTED]

> Surprise, AZ 85388

Jennifer Ybarra

From: Dee [azdbac@cox.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 7:29 PM
To: Newman-Web; Burns-Web; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web
Subject: Az American Water Rate Hike Request Of 82.89%

I live in Coyote Lakes and was just recently informed of this pending rate increase. I just don't understand how council members could even consider allowing Arizona America Water to raise their rates when the majority of us homeowners have not had a raise in our salaries in years! Everyone I know has cut costs in every direction that is possible i.e., taking public transportation because of fuel costs, cutting down on groceries, entertainment, dropping cable and yet the costs keep rising.

I turned my water off for two weeks and it did not make a difference in my bill at all! I checked several months and there was no difference....amazing! I called Az Water and got the run around and was told I used the same amount of water as the month prior. I find that odd. When a representative from Az Water came to my home, he told me that I probably had a leak in my drip system. I turned the drip system off and it has not made a difference in my bill.

My point is that most of us are really struggling to maintain and allot of folks have walked away from their homes because of these sort of increases that keep piling up. If Az Water needs more money to maintain, they might want to think about cutting costs from within. They have us over a barrel, we can't survive without water! That is a ridiculous increase! In my mind it is all a game, ask for an outrageous percentage and then when all is said and done, they get half of what they asked for and everyone feels they have won.....

I would really appreciate it (and my neighbors) if the council would refuse this rate increase. These are difficult times for most of us.

Thanks for reading.

Loydene Ried
azdbac@cox.net

"Politicians are worse than thieves. At least when thieves take your money, they don't expect you to thank them for it."